# Proposal to Reduce Mercury Emissions from the Power Sector

# Proposed Alternatives to Reduce Mercury Emissions from the Power Sector

- Proposed Section 112 MACT requirements for utility units
  - Reduces mercury emissions from 48 to 34 tons by 2007
- Proposed rule to address mercury from power sector under Section 111 (revising December 2000 determination to use Section 112 MACT requirements)
  - Caps mercury emissions at 15 tons after 2018, down from 48 tons currently
- Proposed cap-and-trade approach [under Section 112(n)(1)(A)]

# Proposed Section 111 Alternative

- Federal rule for new sources – 111(b)
  - Includes *new* utility emission limits for mercury and nickel

- Guidelines for State Implementation Plans – 111(d)

  - Sets emission rates for *existing* coal-fired utility units under a cap-and-trade program administered by States
    - Phase 1: 2010 (solicit comment on cap level)
    - Phase 2: 2018 Capped at 15 tons

  - Sets a limit for nickel emissions from oil-fired units to ensure adequate control in State plans

# Benefits of Proposed Section 111 Alternative

- Would reduce nationwide mercury emissions by 33 tons (69 percent) from today's levels when fully implemented after 2018.

- Potential for earlier and greater reductions than proposed MACT alternative.

# Perspective on Approach

- Administration prefers Clear Skies
  - Provides substantial health and environmental benefits with certainty, less complexity, and reasonable economic impacts
- However, the Interstate Air Quality & Utility Mercury Rules will:
  - Deliver many health and environmental benefits for reasonable costs.
  - Significantly help cities and states in the East meet new, more stringent national ambient air quality standards for ozone and fine particles.
  - Serve as the most important steps EPA can take now to improve air quality.
  - Address major power sector emissions in an integrated manner.

# Summary

The Interstate Air Quality Rule and Mercury Rules will significantly cut emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and mercury from coal-burning power plants.

These rules will:

- Provide the largest single investment in any clean air program in history
- Significantly help cities and states in the East meet new, more stringent national ambient air quality standards for ozone and fine particles
- Achieve the largest reduction in air pollution in more than a decade (since the highly successful acid rain program)
- Serve as the single most important step we can take now to improve air quality in the U.S.

# To Learn More…

- Interstate Air Quality Rule
  - **Website:** www.epa.gov/interstateairquality
  - **Docket no.** OAR-2003-0053
    (Electronic docket: www.epa.gov/edocket)

- Utility Mercury Reductions Rule
  - **Website:** www.epa.gov/mercury
  - **Docket no.** OAR-2003-0056
    (Electronic docket: www.epa.gov/edocket)